

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03

NIC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 071914

R 071447Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5550

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

NDJAMENA FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EGEN, RT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR, CAR PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT

1. CONFIRMING CAR RADIO NEWS ITEM MARCH 4 AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED MARCH 5 IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER TERRE AFRICAINE STATED THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (GOCAR) HAS PURCHASED A SOVIET CARGO PLANE TYPE AH26. PRESIDENT BOKASSA PERSONALLY SIGNED THE PURCHASE CONTRACT IN A FORMAL CEREMONY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR MELNIKOV ON MARCH 3. ACCORDING TO TERRE AFRICAINE THE AH-26 IS A CARGO VERSION OF THE AH-24 AND CAN BE USED FOR SHORT TO MEDIUM RANGE DISTANCES. THE ARTICLE DID NOT DISCLOSE EITHER THE PRICE OR TERMS OF SALE.

2. THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT IS THE FIRST PURELY CARGO PLANE IN THE GOCAR PRESIDENTIAL FLEET, WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO CARAVELLES, A DC-4, A DC-3, AND THREE SOVIET HELICOPTERS. THE NEW PLANE

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WILL PROBABLY BE USED TO FERRY GOODS FROM BANGUI TO THE

PRESIDENTIAL LODGE AT NDELE AS WELL AS FOR OCCASIONAL TRIPS
TO SEAPORTS OF DOUALA, LIBREVILLE, AND POINTE NOIRE.

3. THE CAR HAS BEEN IN THE MARKET FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT FOR
SOME TIME. HOWEVER, THE GOCAR'S VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO PURCHASE
AIRCRAFT FROM AMERICAN SUPPLIERS AND PROMOTERS AS WELL AS THE
USG HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE TO DATE. SUCCESSFUL PURCHASE OF THE
NEW AH-26 ON TERMS THE GOCAR CONSIDERS ATTRACTIVE WILL
CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE THE GOCAR TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN MORE AIRCRAFT FROM ANY AND ALL SOURCES.
DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT, RADIO BROADCASTING, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGUI00330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750080-0778
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750374/aaaacocq.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR, CAR PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT
TAGS: EAIR, EGEN, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006